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Letter dated 28 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Phase III of the Reconciliation Conference for Somalia, issued on 28 May 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Phase III of the Reconciliation Conference for Somalia issued on 28 May 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the outcome of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) ministerial meeting in Nairobi on 21 and 22 May, which officially launched Phase III of the Reconciliation Conference for Somalia. It welcomes the ongoing commitment of IGAD member States to adopt a common approach based on political consensus.

The European Union stresses the importance of the main outcomes of the meeting and appeals to all parties involved to continue in their engagement with:

(a) A demonstrated commitment by all parties to moving Phase III of the process forward;

(b) The reaffirmation of the crucial importance of Somali ownership and consensus by all Somali clans on the principles and guidelines for the third and final phase of the Conference. An appropriate political framework including all leaders and relevant forces in Somalia is now a real possibility;

(c) Agreement reached on a timetable for the remainder of the Conference and on a list of MPs by the next IGAD ministerial meeting on 21 June. The timetable and the list should be final and absent leaders should not be permitted to hold the process hostage.

The European Union stands ready to continue to assist the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference in its efforts to reach an early and positive conclusion.